

MAN WITH A HAMMER

Every Town Should Take Quarantine Measures Against Him.

NATURE ABHORS A KNOCKER.

Several Sprightly California Papers Jump on Hammer Handlers With Both Feet, Even Poetic Feet—Let Us Bury the Hatchet and Hammer.

It has been said that there is a time and place for everything and that everything has some good and practical use in the universal plan. While this may be true, there remain to be discovered the benefits to be derived from the "man with the hammer."

This does not refer to the man who wields that useful implement of toll, but to the figurative hammer in the hands of that species of the human animal known as the "knocker."

The real man with the hammer is a builder. He is one of the most necessary and beneficial of our citizens. The figurative man with the hammer is a tearer down, a hindrance, an obstacle, a tumor on the body politic, a municipal cancer, a menace to progress, a breeder of dissatisfaction, a promoter of trouble.

Thank heaven Beaumont has not many of these enemies of peace and prosperity, editorially remarks the Gateway Gazette, published at Beaumont, Cal. There may be one or two of the species among us, for it is said that no community is free from them. Some recent editorials and contributions in southern California papers indicate that there are "men with hammers" in neighboring towns. For this reason warning is here given. Let us quarantine against the pests.

One of the towns which seem to be infested is Huntington Beach, and an editorial in the News of that city contains so much good and sensible material that it is here appended:

"Much has been said and more has been written of the person who is always bawling the fact that the town in which he lives is doomed to be forever small and unimportant, its people shiftless and incompetent in business. Its streets in filthy condition—in short, the other towns are in every way more desirable as places of residence. To define his qualities, the word 'knocker' has been coined. It is impressive. It is even emphatic, yet it is not strong enough.

"This kind of alleged citizen is found everywhere, even in Huntington Beach. The News meets him occasionally and tries to talk him out of his 'dumps.' No one so quickly contracts disease physical as the one who always seems to think that he has it. No one contracts disease financial so certainly as he who is always telling and finally persuades himself that he is doomed to be a pauper; that his town affords no opportunity of earning a decent livelihood. Brace up. Talk cheerfully. Make your opportunities. Boost your town. Join the board of trade. Try to have some enterprise. Try to believe that others have. Be sure that your town is the best in the country. Why, the members of our Woman's club are more manly in spirit, more helpful to the town, more likely to build it up, than a male 'knocker.' An admonition that has been given ever since the advent of the Prince of Peace is, 'Bury the hatchet.' Quite right. Favor all ways peace, but 'Bury the hammer' is not a bad motto, either."

Deducing from a poetical contribution to the Chino Champion, the sugar beet town is not all sweetness. The article is entitled "Boost a Bit" and is contributed by one of the merchants of the town. It, too, is worth reading, and it is here given:

Here, you discontented knocker,
Growl 'bout the country's ills,
Chloroform 'yer dismal talker;
Take a course of liver pills.
Stop yer darn klote howlin',
Chaw some sand an' get some grit.
Don't sit in the dumps a-growlin'.
Jump the roost
An' boost
A bit!

Fall in while the band's a-playin',
Ketch the step an' march along.
'Steadi o' pessimistic brayin'
Jine the halloo-yah song!
Drop yer hammer, do some rootin',
Grab a horn, you cuss, an' split
Every echo with yer tootin'.
Jump the roost
An' boost
A bit!

A Hint to Home Merchants.

Most farmers would rather trade with their local merchants than send off for goods if they can get what they want and at something near the same price, but the business of the mail order houses is growing and will continue to grow until the local merchants wake up to the fact that they must keep in stock what the people want and sell at a price that will not exceed that of the mail order house with the freight added. Merchants who make a "bid" for business by keeping the right kind of stock and letting the people know it through the advertising columns of the local paper are reasonably sure of prosperity.

Value of Fine Grounds.

A noted landscape designer who has much to do with city beautiful planning has said that Los Angeles is not a beautiful city because we have little good landscape work in our private grounds. The rules concerning open lawn centers and massed borders are almost entirely ignored. We do have masses of vegetation, all wrongly placed, which is really overplanting, and too many of our lawn areas are dotted over with plants, almost in orchard style, thereby losing in grand and dignified effect of broad expanses of greenward.—Los Angeles Times.

CONFESSION PROVES TRUE

Prisoner in Ohio Penitentiary Wanted For Murder in Illinois.

Columbus, O., Dec. 22.—When Charles Clayton, alias Riley Price, made a confession to Deputy Warden Wood in the penitentiary that he had murdered his sweetheart, Alma Willmore, near West Frankfort, Ill., in 1896, the prison authorities were very doubtful as to the truth of his story, believing the prisoner may have become deranged and imagined that he had committed some terrible crime. But the tale was not the product of idle fancy. Alma Willmore was murdered at the time and place indicated by the prisoner, and the crime was committed in the manner described by him.

Clayton was arrested in this city for horsestealing and was sentenced to the penitentiary for four years. Authorities of Franklin county, Ill., will make an effort to have him extradited in order to try him on the murder charge.

FIND BODY IN RIVER

Was So Badly Decomposed That Sex Is Not Determined.

Lambertville, N. J., Dec. 22.—A burlap bag containing a leather coat and the body of a man or woman in such a state of decomposition that it was impossible to fully determine the sex, was found in the Delaware river here. The body had been wrapped in a clothes line and was weighted down in the water with about 40 pounds of railroad spikes.

CARNEGIE ENLIVENS HEARING ON TARIFF

Iron Master's Epigrams Too Much for "Standpatters."

Washington, Dec. 22.—Andrew Carnegie, famous for the millions he made in the steel business and for his views on economic questions, made a most entertaining, if not instructive, witness before the house ways and means committee in connection with the proposed revision of the tariff.

Although he was on the stand for nearly eight hours, Mr. Carnegie laughed and joked good-naturedly throughout. He expandered several of the "standpatters" with his epigrammatic replies, praised the genius of Charles M. Schwab, urged the committee to accept the testimony of Judge E. H. Gary as conclusive, and told several funny stories. He avoided figures, however, to such an extent that it is doubtful if the tariff framers are any more enlightened on the steel question than they were before Mr. Carnegie was sworn in by Chairman Payne.

Mr. Carnegie's principal contention was that the steel industry needs no more protection, that it has reached a point in its development where the American manufacturers can compete with the world under free trade conditions. While he claimed that cost of labor and production of steel are less in this country than in the other countries producing steel, Mr. Carnegie gave no figures to support his contentions.

KILLED IN WRECK

Engine Crashes Into Chicago Traction Car at Crossing.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—One man was killed and four other people, including two women, were injured, when a Chicago terminal transfer railroad engine crashed into a Southern Traction company's electric car at Blue Island. The man killed was William Schindler, 23. A misunderstanding of signals is said to have caused the accident.

Insurance Company Changes Hands.

New York, Dec. 22.—Something of a surprise was sprung in life insurance circles when another change in control of the Provident Savings Life Assurance society was announced, together with the issuance of a statement that at a special meeting of the directors E. E. Rittenhouse, commissioner of insurance of Colorado, had been elected president of the society to succeed Arthur C. Langham of Louisville, Ky. Control of the organization, it was announced, had passed from Mr. Langham's hands to those of Judge Nash Rockwood of Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

THE MEAT OF IT.

Benjamin Barnett has been held to the grand jury on the charge of killing James Curran at an amateur boxing contest in Philadelphia.

King Edward of England has almost completely recovered from his recent indisposition.

John Zet, who killed his wife and granddaughter, was legally executed at Wethersfield, Conn.

The coroner's jury returned a verdict of accidental drowning in the case of Chief of Police Biggy of San Francisco.

Orville Wright, the Dayton (O.) aviator, will sail in a few days to join his brother Wilbur in France.

Authorities at Lurens, S. C., are mystified by the numerous fires which have destroyed gunneries and stores in that city and vicinity.

John T. Fay, husband of Eva Fay, the mind reader, committed suicide in an Oakland (Cal.) hotel.

OBJECTIONS REMOVED

Pension Office Building to Be Used For Inaugural Ball.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Whatever may have been the objections of congress to the further use of the pension office building as the place for holding the inaugural ball, when the subject was up for consideration four years ago, it was stated at inaugural headquarters that from conferences with members and senators, the conclusion had been reached that under the circumstances no serious obstructive tactics would be offered against the building again being used for the great social event.

The subscriptions for the inaugural fund reached the grand total of \$70,000, and the committee is confident of its ability to raise the full amount of \$100,000 deemed necessary to make Mr. Taft's inauguration one of the greatest successes of any similar event.

NO ELEPHANTS ON ROUTE

African Nimrod Tells the President Where to Find Big Game.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Colonel J. W. Colenbrander, who headed a British regiment of fighting scouts during the Boer war in South Africa, who was born in that country and has lived there ever since, told President Roosevelt that he would probably not get any elephants if he followed the route he has mapped out for himself in Central Africa. Colonel Colenbrander himself is going on a long hunting trip in South Africa in April, to be gone two years. He said that the president would have to make a wide detour into the interior from Lake Victoria Nyanza if he expected to get a shot at any elephants.

Conspirators Shot.

Willemstad, Curacao, Dec. 22.—Letters received here tell of the discovery of a plot to assassinate General Bello, commander of Fort San Carlos, at Maracaibo. The conspirators were captured and shot.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS BAD FOR FARMERS

Country Life Commission Gets Ready to Report.

Washington, Dec. 22.—That there are problems and difficulties of a serious character affecting the farmers from one end of the country to the other, the solution of which they are going to demand, was the declaration of L. H. Bailey, chairman of the country life commission, who with four other members of that body arrived here to prepare their conclusions for presentation to President Roosevelt.

After declaring that the commission was everywhere received with the greatest cordiality, especially in the west, Professor Bailey stated that the commission felt there were many important questions of concern to the farmer which the president and congress ought to understand.

"Everywhere there are serious economic questions along the lines of distribution, marketing and the lack of efficient co-operation among the farmers," said Professor Bailey. "Farmers are in need of organization, and more particularly of social organization. We found, for example, where farming is prosperous, the social conditions may not be good. Great emphasis has been placed on the deficiencies in schools and better highways."

Retired Officer Drops Dead.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Major Joseph W. Wham, U. S. A., retired, of Salem, Ill., for many years paymaster in the army, dropped dead on the street, near his home, of apoplexy.

In Vain!

"In vain, in vain!" cried the young man distractedly. His hair fell in long wisps about his brows, and his countenance was deathly white.

The crowd pressed close.

"In vain, in vain!" he cried again, with wringing of hands and gnashing of teeth.

"What?" cried the crowd. "What is in vain?"

"The letter 'v'!" cried the young man as he escaped.

Dignity of the English Waiter.

The English hotel waiter belongs to a race which is slowly but surely becoming extinct and carries about him the melancholy aura of the doomed. Every head waiter at a British inn has in him at least the making of a duke's butler. No glimpse of avarice mars the perfection of his monumental manner, and if at the last he condescends to accept your valet it is with something of the air of a disrowned king.—London Sketch.

Where Women Are Wanted.

What strikes you about Auckland is the dearth of women. It is said to be the same all over New Zealand. There are far more men than women, and lots of men have to go without wives.—New Zealand Herald.

Not Sanguine.

Majestic Person—Do you know, my lad, that every British boy has a chance of becoming prime minister of England? Youngster (thoughtfully)—Well, I'll sell my chance for a shilling.—Tit-Bits.

VOLCANOES.

They Are Not Burning Mountains as We Understand That Term.

"What are volcanoes?" Nine out of every ten persons would immediately have an answer of some sort to the question above, for have they not a lively remembrance of having learned in their schoolbooks that "a volcano is a burning mountain, from the summit of which are sent out smoke and flames?" This popular fancy has been exploded by scientists, whose work is to explode popular fancies.

In the first place, volcanoes are not necessarily mountains. In reality they are just the reverse—that is, holes in the earth's crust. Out of these are thrown the materials which, accumulating, form the heaps which we popularly call mountains.

These are, then, the result and not the cause of the action. Neither are they "burning," as we understand the term. There is no combustion nor any action we might reasonably call "burning."

The action need not necessarily take place at the summit, for eruptions are just as frequent at the sides or even at the base. The so-called "smoke" is nothing more or less than the clouds of condensing steam which are formed on every occasion when an eruption occurs.

Lastly, the "flames," so called, are merely the reflection of the mass of molten rock and material inside the crater on the clouds of steam above, thus appearing as a glowing light. The friction, too, set up by the motion of the materials causes electricity, and hence the lightning discharges which add to the illuminating effect.—Pearson's Magazine.

VOTED WITHOUT BALLOTS.

An Election Day at Charlottesville, Va., in 1804.

At Charlottesville, Va., the seat of Albemarle county, according to Miss Mary Johnston's chronicle of "Lewis and Clark," they were voting for a member of the house of delegates. It was the fourth Wednesday in April. The year was 1804.

"Under the locust trees to the right of the open gate were placed long tables and on them three mighty punch bowls, flanked by drinking cups and guarded by house servants of venerable appearance and stately manners. Here good Federalists refreshed themselves. To the left of the gate, upon the trampled grass beneath a mulberry, appeared other punch bowls and in addition a barrel of whisky ready bronched for all good Democrat-Republicans. The sunny street was filled with horses, vehicles and servants; the broad path between the trees, the turf on either hand and the courthouse steps were crowded with riotous voters. All ranks of society, all ages, occupations and opinions, met in the genial weather beneath the trees, where sang every bird of spring."

Within the courthouse the sheriff presided. Conspicuous sat the two candidates. There were no ballots, but each voter made known his choice by living voice:

"I vote, sir," cried the colonel, "for Mr. Ludwell Cary, for a gentleman and a patriot, sir, and may the old county never be represented but by such!"

The Money Germ.

The Baltimore Sun comes out with a warning that probably few will heed. It says, "Don't let the money germs bite you," and adds that a man who has taken the trouble to count 'em says that 124,000 bacteria roost comfortably on each one dollar bill after the currency has been circulating freely for a year or so. So if you have \$50 in your pocket you are probably carrying around about 6,200,000 germs. "Yet," says the Sun, "there are men brave enough to face this terrible risk just for the sake of having a roll of greenbacks. It simply shows what dangers man will undergo for money. Most of us, however, are not in serious danger."

Garibaldi's Simplicity of Character. An instance of Garibaldi's modesty and simplicity of character is afforded by the following letter, written to his wife at Caprea the day after the battle of Digion:

Dear Francesca—Yesterday the Italian volunteers fought the whole day against the Prussians, the best soldiers in the world, and won. The weather here is very cold, and it is snowing. I dare say it will be the same in the Mediterranean. Take care of the cows and see that the calves do not suffer from the cold. Tell Pietro to sow the beans at the Toile and tell the children, Clelia and Manlio, that when I passed Marseilles I saw some beautiful toys, which on my return I shall get for them.

Ingenious Ponies.

A rather curious habit has been developed by Mexican ponies in connection with the cactus thorns. When these creatures are thirsty it is said that before attempting to put their mouths to the prickly plant they will first of all stand and kick at the cactus with their heels. By this means the thorns are broken and the leathery skin bruised, and so the ponies can drink their fill of the cool juice without injury.—Strand Magazine.

They Were Not Encouraged.

"I don't see why that young man doesn't propose."

"I think, pa, that the chances of his doing it would be fully as good if you wouldn't leave your boxing gloves around where he can see them."—Bemian Magazine.

Of course everybody likes and respects self made men. It is a great deal better to be made in that way than not to be made at all.—O. W. Holmes.

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L. B. COCKRELL, Vice President.

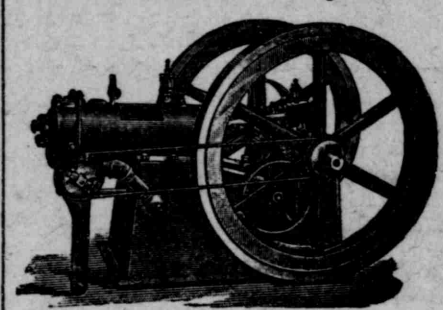


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LINCOLN FARM IMPROVEMENTS.
HODGENVILLE, Ky., Dec. 22.—From fifteen to twenty teams are at work hauling gravel to the Lincoln farm, to be used in building the foundation of the museum. Not a day will be lost between now and February 12, when the foundation will be finished and ready for the laying of the cornerstone of the museum. Mr. Roosevelt will be present on that occasion, having accepted the invitation to lay the cornerstone.

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HAD BEEN FUGITIVE FOR YEARS

Ned Lakes Finally Arrested By Revenue Officers in Jackson County.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Dec. 22.—Ned Lakes has been arrested in Jackson county by revenue men. He has been a fugitive for years and nine of his distilleries have been destroyed by officers. Finally officers took a supply of food to the vicinity of Lakes' still and camped there two days until Lakes' arrival. A large amount of liquor was destroyed and officer Mullins was badly burned by searing slop which he poured out.